



Paul E. Helliker
Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation



Gray Davis
Governor
Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Yurok Environmental Monitoring Workgroup
Yurok Community Center, Weitchpec
Tuesday, August 28, 2001

Participants: Kevin McKernan, Environmental Program Director, Yurok Tribe
Lori Harder, Yurok Tribe Environmental Program
Ken Childs, Sr., Yurok Tribe
Jene McCovey, Yurok Tribe
Margo Robbins, Yurok Tribe
Jennifer Kalt, California Indian Basketweavers Association
Ron Johnson, California State University Humboldt
Susan Burdick, Yurok Tribe
Ora Smith, Karuk Tribe
Renee Stauffer, Karuk Tribe
LaVerne Glaze, Karuk Tribe
George Guillen, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Shaw, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Ex officio: Kean Goh, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pam Wofford, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Dave Cavyell, Del Norte County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Jeff Dolf, Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
John Pricer, Simpson Timber Company

Notes from the April 4, 2001 meeting were reviewed and approved. Questions about adjuvants were brought up. It had been agreed at the last meeting that DPR would invite a speaker to talk to the workgroup about adjuvants, but she was unable to attend this meeting. She will be invited to the next upcoming meeting. **Kean** explained that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has formed a workgroup to look at the issues involved with inert ingredients. **Kean** agreed to find out about the workgroup and get the information to **Lori**.

Lori described the community meetings held concerning the spring spray program and the questions about the applications. The community concluded that they would like; more notification prior to applications, a tribal staff person at the applications, and better notification system for schools and affected persons. The community also expressed concern over a hack and squirt application in the reservation area, and the possible contamination of a spring. Other concerns such as the decline in bee populations were brought up. **Kevin** described the sampling that had been conducted in conjunction with the possible spring contamination, which involved the county of Humboldt, the tribe and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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Meeting Notes

Yurok Environmental Monitoring Workgroup

Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Eureka

December 10, 2001

Page 2

All water samples at a water tank, creek, spring, and a home faucet contained no detectable amount of the herbicides. One sample collected in a ponding area along a road below the application area resulted in a detection of 4.5 ppb of Garlon and 0.6 ppb of Oust. The ponding area did not run into any other waterways.

A question came up about water standards for the herbicides used in the area, and **Kean** noted that there are no US EPA or DPR standards for the herbicides monitored. However, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has a 10 ppb standard for 2,4-D. **Susan** suggested the tribe send a letter to the US EPA stating that standards are needed. **Kevin** mentioned that the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board has a standard that no detectable amount is allowed in waterways for all pesticides, but personnel stated that the standard is sometimes overlooked in cases of invasive aquatic plant control, mosquito spraying and other application types.

Kevin and **Lori** discussed the soil samples, which they collected at an accident site near an application area. The question was raised whether chemical from a tank on the ATV involved in the accident was spilled on the ground. **Lori** described the site as a 15-foot x 3-foot area with a pink substance on the surface of the ground. The samples were analyzed for Garlon and Oust, and concentrations of 170 and 44 ppm, respectively, were measured. **Jeff** stated that Paul Holzberger had inspected the ATV and determined that the tank was undamaged. The county had concluded that since it was adjacent to an application area it was not actionable as a spill.

Lori described the fish tissue sampling conducted at the west fork of Blue Creek and McGarvey Creek. Water samples collected at the same time as the fish samples contained no detectable amount of triclopyr or 2,4-D. The toxicity samples also collected at the same time showed no toxicity to *Ceriodaphnia sp.* (water flea). **Kean** noted that the results for the fish tissue were not back from the Department of Fish and Game lab and will be presented at the next meeting.

The results of the plant sampling for the spring 2001 aerial spray program were presented for a single dissipation site and an off-site (drift) application site. The sampling for dissipation of the herbicide on plants within a spray area has been completed through 87 days after application. At least one more day of sampling will be conducted. The off-site sampling produced measurable concentrations out to 41 feet. Samples collected out further contained no detectable amount.

Ron suggested that buffer areas should be set for property lines and schools. He also suggested that the tribe talk to the U.S. Postal Service to arrange placement of lockable boxes for posting spray plans. Jene indicated that there needs to be a better way to contact people located in remote areas about the spray times.

Meeting Notes

Yurok Environmental Monitoring Workgroup

Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Eureka

December 10, 2001

Page 3

Kevin presented his results of the bioassessment sampling the tribe has started for various creek and watersheds feeding into the Klamath River (see attached). Some pre-application and post-application samples were collected for waterways near spray areas. **Kevin** gave some background on bioassessment and how the abundance of aquatic macroinvertebrate species (total number) and the diversity (number of species) can help describe the "health" of a waterway. He pointed out that no conclusions can be made from the data so far, but it will help to determine a baseline for the waterways monitored.

John notified the workgroup that there would be no aerial applications of herbicides made this fall due to economic reasons. Ground applications of Garlon will continue in various areas.

The sampling plan for fall 2001 was discussed and it was decided that we would return to the areas of prior dissipation sampling to do a final sampling of the plants that had been previously sampled during the study.

The next meeting is set for October 17, 2001, at the Yurok Community Center in Weitchpec from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.